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REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 12, 24, 27, 33, 40-46, and 48-58 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 3, 6, 24, 27, 40, 46, and 50 have been amended to more particularly define the

invention. Claims 56-58 have been added to assure Applicant the degree of protection to

which his invention entitles him. Claims 5, 13, 26, 34, and 47 have been cancelled in the

interest of expediting prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-11, 14-23, 25, 28-32, and 35-39 were

previously canceled.

THE 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

In the final rejection, claims 3, 6, 12 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112,

second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim

the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is traversed.

With respect to claim 3, the Office Action contends that the term "the netlist

modification is divided into a set of steps, each step addressing a specific aspect of the design

space" is not clear, and asks for definitions of "set of steps" and "aspect of the design space."

Claim 3 has been amended to recite that each step addresses "a specific domain" of

the design space, rather than "a specific aspect of the design space," thus overcoming that

aspect of the rejection.

For consistency, the same amendment has been made to claim 24, even though that

claim was not rejected on this basis.

A "set of steps" is just that. For example, the netlist modification might be divided

c

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into a <u>first step</u> involving, say, the physical domain, and then a <u>second step</u> involving, say, the Boolean domain. Thus, the <u>first and second steps</u> comprise a "set of steps." More steps might be included in a set, depending upon the situation.

The Random House Webster's College Dictionary, Second Edition, 1999, includes as a definition of "step" "any of a series of successive stages in a process or the attainment of an end." A copy of this definition is attached. Thus, in claim 3 the netlist modification process is divided into a set of successive stages.

With regard to claim 6, the Office Action contends that the term "logical data" is not clear. This has been amended to "logical circuitry," thus overcoming this rejection.

For consistency, the same amendment has been made to claim 27, even though that claim was not rejected on this basis.

With regard to claim 12, the Office Action contends that the terms "predetermined stages" and "implement" are not clear, and asks for a definition of "implement."

As to "predetermined stages," claim 40, from which claim 12 is dependent, states that under certain conditions, the claimed method continues by "returning to (a)." Claim 12 then adds that at predetermined stages of the method, whether to intercept the method and implement the most recently considered netlist modification and cell placement is selectively determined. Thus, for example, it may be decided in advance that if a satisfactory netlist modification and cell placement are not achieved after, say, five attempts, then, rather than again returning to (a), the result of the fifth attempt - - i.e., the most recently considered netlist modification and cell placement - - is to be implemented. In such instance, the predetermined stage is the fifth attempt.

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As to "implement," claim 40, from which claim 12 is dependent, states that under certain conditions, the claimed method continues by "<u>implementing</u> the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement." Claim 12 merely sets out another condition that leads to "<u>implementing</u> the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement."

The Random House Webster's College Dictionary, Second Edition, 1999, includes as a definition of the verb "implement" "to put into effect according to a definite plan or procedure." A copy of this definition is attached. Thus, in claim 12 at predetermined stages it is selectively determined whether to intercept the method and put into effect the most recently considered netlist modification and cell placement.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

THE 35 U.S.C. §102(e) REJECTION

In the final rejection, claims 3, 6, 12, 24, 27, 33, 40-46 and 48-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Shenoy, U.S. Patent No. 6,378,114, with the identical discussion that was provided in the previous Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to the present Amendment, elements (c) and (d) of claim 40 read:

- "(c) determining whether the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement improve the design space; and
- "(d) if the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement improve the design space, implementing the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement, but if the considered netlist

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modification and the considered cell placement do not improve the design space, returning to (a)."

The final rejection argues that optimization in [and presumably also improvement of] a single domain will simultaneously affect the other domains. This appears to challenge whether a netlist modification and cell placement can improve the design space.

By the above amendments, it is brought out that it is determined whether the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement improve at least one domain of the design space, while leaving all other domains of the design space satisfactory. For example, if a netlist modification and cell placement improve, say, timing by 3 ps, but decrease the spare space by five percent, that still may be considered an improvement in the design space, even though the spare space is decreased, so long as the reduced spare space is within a satisfactory amount.

The final rejection contends that elements (c) and (d) of claim 40 are:

"disclosed by Shenoy at column 1, line 54 'several iterations... to optimize... each of these stages is highly dependent on the results of the other stages... the overall design might sometimes be worse in a successive iteration', and at column 3, line 32 'after cell separation is performed, the netlist is tweaked to optimize the design'. The final rejection applies the same reasoning in rejecting independent claims 46 and 50.

The above partial quotation from Shenoy's column 1 omits a significant part of Shenoy's teaching. The full passage reads:

"Often, several iterations of the design, <u>layout</u>, and <u>testing</u> process are required in order to optimize the semiconductor chip's size, cost, heat output, speed, power consumption, and electrical functionalities. However, one problem is attributable to the fact that each of these stages is highly dependent on the results of the other stages. A minor alteration in one stage intended to

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enhance one characteristic may cause unforeseen problems to occur in other stages. For example, changing a cell in the synthesis stage might drastically alter the current place and route. It is this high degree of interdependence which makes it extremely difficult to predict and account for the consequences associated with any changes. Indeed, the overall design might sometime be worse in a successive iteration." [Emphasis added.]

Shenoy thus teaches that several iterations of a process that <u>includes layout and testing</u> may be required. In each iteration, including layout and testing, if it is found that the result is not satisfactory, the process is started over, wasting the time, material, and expense of the layout and testing.

At column 3, lines 35-41, Shenoy states:

"In the past, the area in which the IC is to be placed was typically held constant. In contrast, the present invention allows the area to change in size (i.e., either grow or shrink). Should the area grow to exceed a pre-defined allocation, the present invention will automatically generate a message to indicate this condition to the user." [Emphasis added.]

Thus, Shenoy states that when the change causes a problem, the user is notified. The user must then take action, either to undertake a new design, layout, and testing process or to override the message and accept design with the problem.

In contrast, the present invention if the considered netlist modification and considered cell placement do not improve at least one domain of the design space, while leaving all other domains of the design space satisfactory, a different possible netlist modification for the design space is considered, along with a cell placement for this modified design space. Thus, the time, effort, and expense of implementing a netlist modification and cell placement that are unsatisfactory are avoided.

The final rejection ignores, and does not respond to, the argument presented in the

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previous amendment that the <u>considered netlist modification and cell placement are not</u>

<u>implemented until and unless it is determined that they improve the design space</u>. As can be seen, this distinguishes in an unobvious manner from Shenoy.

The above amendments to independent claims 40, 46, and 50 make clear that the claimed invention involves determining whether the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement improve at least one domain of the design space, while leaving all other domains of the design space satisfactory. The above amendments to independent claims 40, 46, and 50 also make clear that in accordance with the claimed invention determining whether the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement improve at least one domain of the design space, while leaving all other domains of the design space satisfactory takes place before implementing the considered netlist modification and the considered cell placement.

This <u>distinguishes over Shenoy</u> in which each iteration includes layout and testing.

It is accordingly submitted that independent claims 40, 46, and 50 <u>distinguish</u>

patentably from Shenoy and are <u>allowable</u>, as are their respective dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3, 6, 12, 24, 27, 33, 40-46, and 48-58, all the claims presently pending in the application, are <u>patentably distinct</u> over the prior art of record and are <u>allowable</u>, and that the application is in <u>condition for allowance</u>. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance,

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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

James N. Dresser, Esq. Registration No. 22,973

Date: 4 , 2005

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0-30; < LL imperativus < L imperation

e, command; see EMPEROR]—inserting seness, n.
-ra'(tor, -ra'(tor), n. 1. (in imperial months to me) a temporary title accorded a distribution of the see EMPEROR]—Imperior; see EMPEROR]—Imperior add.—imper'a-to'fi-al-by, adv. appendix of the road. 2. not perceived by a see to me' perceived by a see to me

p'tiv), adj. not perceptive. [1655-65] ip'e ant), adj. imperceptive. [1805-15]

adj. 1. of, pertaining to, or characterimperfect vision. 2. lacking completing or designating a verb tense or form vision. or designating a vero tense or forming repeated or continuing action or state in ein progress at a point of reference in the state of t fungus for which only the assental repeating of the Fungi Imperfects [1830] k/shan), n. 1. fault; flaw. 2. the quality is 150–1400; ME < LL) 150-1400; ME < LL)
k/tiv), adj. 1. of or noting an aspect of the k/tiv), adj. 1. of or noting an aspect of teteness or repetition of an action of the ect. 3. a verb in this aspect.

r it, fa rāt'), adj. 1. Also, Im-perfectable mps) lacking perforations. [1665-75] adj. 1. of, pertaining to, or characterizing the rule or authority of the ending of the end of the ho wore such a beard)]
ritish gallon equivalent to 11/5 U.S. gallo

a liz/am), n. 1. the policy of extending pire or nation over foreign countries and dependencies. 2. advocacing imal system of government. [1855-60] mope/rical-is/tic, adj. —im-pe/rical-is/tic, adj. —i

ellow moth, Eacles imperialis, with purple

irrigated agricultural region in SE Caliminmerly a part of the Colorado Desertitation in Selection in SE Caliminmerly a part of the Colorado Desertitation in Selection in Sel

'ma nant), adj. not permanent; transitive, ence, n. —im-per/ma-nent-ly, adv. 'me a bal), adj. 1. not permeable; impasses, rocks, etc.) not permitting the passes.

Li —im-per/me-a-bil/l-ty, im-per/ma-a-bil/l-ty, im-per/ma-a-bil/l-ty. •a•bly, adv. ir mis/ə bəl), adj. not permissible: [1855]

nl), adj. 1. lacking reference to a particular ark. 2. devoid of human character or interest. or warmth. 4. a. (of a verb) having and used without an expressed subject 5 s and used without an expressed subject or accompanied by an empty subject random b. (of a pronoun) indefinite 0; < LL]—imper/son-al-by, adv. sper/son-al-bza/tion, n. /sa nāt/), v.t. -tzed, -tz-ing. to make insper/son-al-bza/tion, n. /sa nāt/), v., -at-ed, -at-ing. 1. to assume ce of; pretend to be. 2. to mimic the work of the constraint in order to entertain. [1710-15] per/son-a/tor, n. importing (importing and inspection), n. 1. unmannerly intrusion or premitting insolence. 2. impertinent quality or action. 3. something
important in interest in appropriateness. [1595–1605]

in the value; mappropriateness. [1595–1605]

in an ey (im pur'tn an sē), n., pl. -des. napektinence.

in pur'tn ant), adi. 1. intrusively presumptious;

ant) pertinent; irrelevant: an impertinent detail. [1350–1400;

in [13] — Imper'ti-nent-ly, adv. — Imper'ti-nent-ness, n. THE THE PROPERTY IN THE PROPER mutusis rudeness toward persons entitled to respect: impertinent interruption. impurer suggests a bold and tractics rudeness: an impudent young ruscal. Insoluri suggests a bold and tractics of contemptuous behavior of an arrogant person: The boss and the property employee.

transport motion. [1650–60; < L. attack]

L. imperfect.

L. imperf

imperiect.

In half (finp/hul), n. the capital of Manipur state, in NE India. 18,59.

In the (finp/hul), n. the capital of Manipur state, in NE India. 18,59.

In the (finp/hul), n. pl. -tles. 1. the quality or state of being impired to the control of the plant of the control of the control

who hold artificial teeth. b. an artificial tooth or bridge attached such a device. [1535–45; (<F) < LL] —im-plant/a-ble, adj. —im-plant/a-ble, adj. —im-plant/a-ble, adj. —im-plant/a-ble, adj. —im-plant/a-ble, adj. —im-plant/a-ble (im/plantad. 3. the attachment of the early embryo to hang of the uterus. [1570–80]

**Ling of the uterus. [1250–1300; ME empleder. — plead-plea

sequence: Malfunctioning of one part of the nervous sy another part. 4. Archaic. to fold or twist together; inte 40; < L implicare to interweave = im-ma-1 + plicare tim-pli-ca-tion (im-pli kā/shan), n. 1. something is gested as naturally to be inferred or understood: an im honesty. 2. the act of implying. 3. the state of being relation between two propositions such that the secon when the first is true. 5. the act of implicating. 6. the when the first is true. 3. the act of implicating 6. the implicated, 7. a likely relationship: the religious imp cient astrology. [1400–50; late ME < L] —im/pileca/th moplicolt (im plis/it), adj. 1. not expressly stated; in agreement. 2. unquestioning; absolute: implicit trust. contained; inherent: the drama implicit in the occasio < L implicitus involved, obscure, var. ptp. of implicare

< L implicitus involved, obscure, var. ptp. of implicān—im-pik/h-ly, adv. —im-pik/t-enss, n. im-pik/h-ly, adv. —im-pik-/t-enss, n. im-pik-/h-ly, n., -plod-ed, -plod-ing. —v.i. 1. (opposed to explode). —v.t. 2. to pronounce (a consc plosion. [1880-85; ns.¹ + (EX)PLODE] im-pioro (im piòr', -piòr'), v., -plored, -plor-ing. —v gently or piteously; beseech: They implored him to g gently or piteously for: implore forgiveness. —v.i. 3. to piteous supplication. [1530-40; < L implòrare = im-to lament]—im-plor/ing-ly, adv.</p>

piteous supplication. [1530-40: < L implorare = imto lament] —Im-plor/ing-ly, adv. Im-plo-silon (im plo/zhan), n. 1. the act of imploding ward. 2. the ingressive release of a suction stop. Co [1875-80; m.-] + (m.)n.com.]—im-plo/sive (-siv), adj im-ply (im pli/), v.l., -plled, -ply-lng. 1. to indicate c out being explicitly stated. 2. to involve as a necessar Speech implies a speaker. 3. Obs. to enfold. [1325-75; plier < L implicare] —Usage. See NFEE. Im-po-lite (im/pa lit/), adj. not politic, expedient, Im-pon-der-a-ble (im pol/i tik), adj. not politic, expedient, Im-pon-der-a-ble (im pol/i tik), adj. not politic, expedient, Im-pon-der-a-ble (im pol/i tik), adj. not politic, expedient, Im-pon-der-a-ble (im pon/der a-bly, adv. —Im-pon/der-a-bli der-a-ble-ness, n. —Im-pon/der-a-b

cumstance; imply. 5. Computers. to bring (documents, one application program from another.—v.L. 6. to be or importance; matter.—n. 7. something that is abroad. 8. the act of importing. 9. consequence; i meaning; implication: He felt the import of her words. ME < L importāre. See M-1, port?]—Import/eable, ac billoty, n.—im-port/er, n. im-port/eable, ac billoty, n.—im-port/er, n. im-port/eable, ac billoty, n.—im-port/eable, value or influence to a person or thing: the important discoveries. consequence may suggest personal distincti gest importance based on results to be produced: a uquence in world affairs; an event of great consequence sconfigence carries the implication of importance not i diately recognized: The significance of the discover many years later. MOMENT, on the other hand, usu. realty apparent, self-evident importance: an interna great moment.

oporotarrit (im pôr'tnt), adj. 1. of much or great consequence: an important event in world history. 2. distinction: an important scientist. 3. self-important. consequence: an important event in world history. 2. distinction: an important scientist. 3. self-important. nate. [1580-90; < ML important. 5. of importants, p to be of consequence, weigh, L: to carry in, import; se por/tantsly, adv. —Usage. Both More importants a tannity occur at the beginning of a sentence in all varie English: More important (or More importantly), her important is unmatched. Objections are raised agaitantly on the grounds that the phrase more important, form of "What is more important," a construction in with importantly cannot occur. Nevertheless, more important common expression, esp. in speech; it probably development of the sentence-modifying adverbs, as fortunately important-rate (im/por ta/shan, -pōr-), n. 1. the act something imported. [1595-1605]
Importunents (im/por toon/, -tyōon/, im pôr/chan), ing. adj. —v.t. 1. to urge or press with excessive p trouble; annoy 3. Archaic. to beg for urgently or persite to make urgent or persistent solicitations. —adj. [1350-1400; ME [adj.] < L importunate unsuitable, lentless] —im/portunely, adv. —im/portun/er, n. Importunity (im/por toonity (im/por to

eurybathic). [1900-05; < Gk stenó(s) narrow, close + Gk báth(os)

depth (see artio-) + -ic] stem-o-graph (stem-o-graph (stem-o-graph) (stem-o-graph

ing dictation in shorthand. [1790-1800, Amer.]

\$\mathrm{Stornormy}\$ (sta nog/ra-\(\tilde{\text{fi}}\), n. the art of writing in shorthand. [1602; < Gk stend(s) narrow, close, confined + -GRAPHY} --stenoograph-k (sten/a graf/ik), adj. -sten/o-graph/l-cal-ly, adv.

\$\mathrm{stornormally}\$ (sti nost/, nozd/), adj: characterized by stenosis; abnormally narrowed. [1895-1900; stenos(s) + -ev^1]

\$\mathrm{stornormally}\$ (sti nosis), n. a narrowing or stricture of a passage or vessel of the body. [1855-60; < NL < Gk stenosis - stenos, var. s. of stenos to straiten, confine; v. der. of stenos narrow + sts -sts]

-ste-not/le (-not/ik), adj.

-ste-not/ic (-not/ik), adj.

steno-o-type (sten/ə tip/), n, v, -typed, -typ-ing, -n 1, a keyboard machine resembling a typewriter, used in stenotypy. 2. the symbols typed in one stroke on this machine. -v, t. 3, to write or record with

sten-e-type (sten's tip'), n., v., typed, typ-ing, —n. 1, a keyboard machine resembling a typewriter, used in stenotypy. 2. the symbols typed in one stroke on this machine. —v.t. 3. to write or record with a stenotype, [1890-95; formerly a trademark] —sten'o-typ'st, n. stone-o-typey (sten's ti'pe), n. shorthand in which symbols are used to produce shortened forms of words or phrases. [1890-95; struckary) + 'rrre + v'] —sten'o-typ'k (tip'k), ddj. sten't (stent), n. Med. a small, expandable tube used for inserting in a blocked vessel or other part. [1960-65; orig, uncert.] sten-too' (sten'tion), n. a trumper-thaped (fallate protozoan of the genus Stentor (sten'tion), n. a trumper-thaped (fallate protozoan of the genus Stentor (sten'tion), n. a trumper-thaped (fallate protozoan of the genus Stentorian (sten tor'a an. tot'a), ddj. very loud or powerful in stonud: a stentorian voice. [1595-1605; Stentor a herald in the litid with a loud voice (< GR stentor) + LNN (stentor) + LNN (

95]
Stopponnokert (step's no kart), n. the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, within Azerbaijan. 33,000.

step-broth-eer (step'bruh'ar), n. one's stepfather's or stepmother's son by a previous marriage. [1400-50].

step-child (step'child), n., pl. -chil-dren. 1: a child of one's husband or wife by a previous marriage. 2: any person, project, etc.; that is not properly treated; supported, or appreciated. [bef. 1000].

step-daugh-ets. (step'do'ter), n. a. daughter of one's husband or wife by a previous marriage. [bef. 900].

step-daugh-ets. (step'do'ter), in a daughter of one's husband or wife by a previous marriage. [bef. 900].

step-daugh-ets. (step'do'ter), in a daughter of one's husband or wife by a previous marriage. [bef. 900].

posed of a parent, a stepparent; and a child or children by a previous marriage. [1965-70] the husband of one of mother by a contract of one of one

posed of a patent, a steppatent, and a child or children by a previous marriage. [1965-70]

stepp-facther step/fa/thar), n. the husband of one is mather by a later marriage. [bef. 900]

steph-ac-no-tis (stef/a no/tis), n. any vine belonging to the stephanotis, of the milkweed family, having fragram way, while add, fit for a crown, der. of stephanos (masc.) crown!

Stephanotis, of the milkweed family, having fragram way, while add, fit for a crown, der. of stephanos (masc.) crown!

Stephano (stef/van), n. 1. Saint, died A.D. c35, first Christian marry.

2. Saint, c975-1038, first king of Hungary 997-1038.

Blois):10977-1154, king of England 1135-54. 4. Sir Laint, 1832-190.

Stephena (stef/vanz), n. Alexander Hamilton, 1812-181, the president of the Confederacy 1861-65.

Stephena-son (stef/vanz), n. Alexander Hamilton, 1812-181, the president of the Confederacy 1861-65.

Stephena-son (stef/vanz), n. a ladder having flat steps in the step-lad-odor (step/lad/ar), n. a ladder having flat steps in place of rungs, esp. one with a hinged frame opening up to form form supporting legs. [1745-55]

step-mothoer (step/mal/ar), n. a ladder having flat steps in place of rungs, esp. one with a hinged frame opening up to form form supporting legs. [1745-55]

step-mothoer (step/mal/ar), n. a ladder having flat steps in place of rungs, esp. one with a hinged frame opening up to form form supporting legs. [1745-55]

step-mothoer (step/mal/ar), n. a stepfather or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ant, -par/-); n. a stepfather or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ent-ing, n. a latter or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ent-ing, n. a latter or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ent, -par/-); n. a stepfather or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ent-ing, n. a latter or nepmothon (1885-90] —step/par/ent, -par/-); n. a nextensive plain; esp. one without tree 2. the Steppe

OE estre, c. MD ster, MLG -(e)ster) with the stering stering stering stering of resembling, or pertaining to duning of fees. [1728-35; < L sterior, s. of sterius dung + Accous] with fees. [1728-35; < L sterior, s. of sterius dung + Accous] with fees used to measure cordwood. [1790-1800; < F stere < Ck surreits solid; stereocos (ster'e O', ster'-), n, pf stereocos, adj. This system of equipment for reproducing stereocoping sound. A stereocoping these reproduction. 3. Stereocoping those stereocoping these.

equipment for reproducing stereophonic sound. 2. stereophonic sound reproduction. 3. stereoscopic photography. 4. a stereoscopic photography. 4. a stereoscopic photography. 5. stereophones sound, stereoscopic photography, etc. [1815–25] stereophones s

space of the atoms or groups of atoms in a compound and with the effects of these positions on the properties of the compound. [1885-90] —ster'e-o-demin'-ical, adj.

ster-e-o-o-gram' (ster'e a gram', ster'-), n. 1. a diagram or picture my resenting objects in a way to give the impression of solidity. 2. ster-occuprach. [1865-70]

ster-e-o-o-graph (ster'e a gral', gral', ster'-), n. a simple or double picture for a stereoscope. [1855-60]

ster-e-o-o-graphy (ster'e og'ra fē, ster'-), n. 1. the all of delined the forms of solid bodies on a plane. 2. a branch of solidit geometry dealing with the construction of regularly defined solidit [1991-1991]

—ster'e-o-graph'k (-a gral'ik, ster'-), adj. —ster'e-o-graph'k (-a gral'ik, ster'-), ad

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